

SIXPENCE

AUGUST 1944

AMATEUR RADIO

THE
OFFICIAL ORGAN
OF THE
WIRELESS INSTITUTE
OF
AUSTRALIA



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FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

Reading advertisements in overseas magazines of recent issue one gains the impression that at long last leading manufacturers have arrived at the conclusion that the Amateur has filled a very valuable place in the development of radio...not only in the past, but right at the present time when his experience is proving of the utmost value in the production of war equipment, not only in the production, but in the operation and maintenance of this equipment in the field.

To quote from the advertisement of Messrs. Eitel-McCullough Inc. manufacturers of the famous "Eimac" tubes, "The radio amateur is off the air as an Amateur, but he's still in radio. He's there in person and he's everywhere in the products created to satisfy his progressive demands. Many of the world's leading electronic engineers are Radio Amateurs, and much of the equipment in use today by the armed services is a product of the great Amateur testing grounds."

This coming from a firm with such a reputation as the advertiser is praise indeed and forces one to consider the lack of appreciation shown by Australian manufacturers for the work done by the Amateur.

With the Great Allied success on all fronts, together with the internal unrest in both Germany and Japan, there is a wave of optimism also in the Amateur world, for the sooner it is over the sooner the Amateur is back on the air.

The Wireless Institute of Australia, the officially recognised body representing licensed amateurs, is the source from which the move must come for the restoration of licences.

The strongest argument that the Institute can put up is that it represents 100% membership of all former and intending licencees.. This can only be achieved by existing Institute members doing their utmost to interest other Hams to become members. Remember the Institute has guarded your interests, and will continue to do so.

MAGNETIC RECORDING AGAIN

... Alec H. Clyne VK3VX ...

Before the advent of sound-on-film and long playing 33RPM discs the only satisfactory way to record a long program was by the magnetic process, in which sound was recorded in the form of variations in magnetisation along the length of a steel tape or wire. In recording, the tape is passed between the poles of a permanent magnet around which is wound a coil fed from the recording amplifier. The variations in field produced by the coil bring about a variation in degree of magnetisation of the tape.

Playback is effected by passing the tape through a similar device the coil being in this case connected to the input of an amplifier in the same manner as in the case of the familiar magnetic pick-up used on disc recordings.

Among the advantages claimed for this system of sound recording are that there is no scratch, disc to physical contact between the recording medium and the pick-up and similarly there is no wear on the recording medium. Neither of these advantages can be fully realised, for the steel tape cannot be made perfectly homogeneous throughout its length, small imperfections in the structure of the steel therefore produce noise and furthermore the repeated reeling and unreeling of the tape produces stresses in the steel which in time destroy the magnetisation. Sharp blows such as are caused by dropping a reel of tape also tend to destroy the recording.

However in the above respects magnetic recording is quite the equal of disc and film recording and indeed has one advantage that the others have not, namely, the recording may be completely wiped off the tape by passing it through a magnetic field sufficiently dense to saturate the steel, after which it may be used for a further recording and this process can be repeated indefinitely.

In regard to durability, magnetic recording is much superior to any other method, a magnetic record may be played thousands of times.

All this seems too good to be true, and, you say, there must be a catch somewhere. There is....the response of magnetic recording falls off badly below about 250 c/s and above 5000 c/s making it ideal for voice but quite unsuitable for musical recording.

Such a recorder has been in use at the P.M.G. Laboratories in Melbourne for many years and is still used for recording overseas broadcasts of speeches by the King and others for local

retransmission at times more suitable for local listeners. A half hour recording can be accommodated on a reel about three feet in diameter and half an inch in width.

Recently news has come to hand from America of a new application for magnetic recording.

Intelligence officers of the Army Navy and Air Forces found that observers in aircraft on reconnaissance missions were often unable to make written notes quickly enough when over their objectives and consequently valuable items of information were sometimes lost. So it seemed that some form of recording would be an advantage, the observers could then dictate their notes into their intercom microphones and would thus be able to perform their duties much more speedily and accurately.

Such a recorder would have to be light, self contained, compact and capable of making uninterrupted records covering longer periods than could be accomplished by disc recording. Furthermore the records would have to be available for playback immediately after landing, which precluded the use of sound-on-film with its inevitable delays for processing. So the old magnetic system was taken down off the shelf, dusted off and put into action.

This time the medium used is a fine steel wire of about 42swg passing through the recorder at 3 feet per second, and the standard length of wire is about 11500 feet, giving a running time of 66 minutes.

The wire can be accommodated on a reel about 4 inches diameter and half an inch wide and the whole recording apparatus is contained in a box about 12" x 6" x 4" with a total weight of 9 pounds.

The steel used has been specially developed for this application and a test recording made on it has been played 100,000 times without any perceptible change in quality. No details have been given of the frequency range but it is reasonable to assume that research has been conducted into the matter and the future possibilities in the application of magnetic recording appear to be very extensive.

The first use of the new recorder in action was when it was installed in a Flying Fortress on a bombing mission over France in daylight. The recorder was connected to the intercom system and it is said that the voices of the crew and the sounds of battle were very realistically recorded. No doubt the comments of the crew while in the thick of the task would be most interesting.

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VICTORIAN DIVISION

... President's Report ...

Presented at

THE 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING...1/8/1944.

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For the fourth successive year it is my pleasant duty to review at this, the 34th Annual General Meeting, the activities of this Division of the Wireless Institute of Australia during the past year. Probably the most important matter for review is that of finance, but as full details of this are shown in the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts, a copy of which will be posted to every member. I will deal but briefly with the most outstanding points. The years operations have resulted in a loss, which, after providing £32.5.0 for depreciation and including £11.7.5 loss on the publication of "Amateur Radio" amounted to £93.16.1. This loss is slightly higher than that incurred last year, but your council holds the opinion that such losses must be expected whilst the war continues, and that, if necessary, our reserve funds should be used to ensure permanency of these rooms.

Five audio oscillators which were built for the use of the Morse classes have been sold for a total of £31.14.0 reducing the capital value of apparatus by that amount. By the investment of £500.0.0 during the last war loan our holding of Commonwealth Government Inscribed Stock has been increased by that amount to £550.

In view of the continual losses shown by the balance sheets of recent years, it is, I think, a matter of great satisfaction that, after nearly five years of war, our reserve funds have not suffered greater depletion.

MEMBERSHIP P... I am pleased to be able to report that membership figures again show a remarkable increase, partly due to the work of the Membership Secretaries Messrs. T. D. Hogan VK3IX and J. G. Marsland VK3NY. Commencing the year with 148 members, 71 members either joined or re-joined; 14 members re-joining as a result of the membership drive conducted during May and June, 11 members failed to renew subscriptions from the previous year, resulting in a nett increase of 60 members and making the total at the 30th June...208.

Of this number 100 are members of the defence forces, the following seven having been reported "Prisoner of War" or "Missing", Major Lyle Andrews VK3HY; Sgt. M. R. Campbell VK3MR; Pte Jack McCandlish VK3HN; Sgt. K. Oliver VK3GZ; Flying Officer Roy Prowse VK3XS; Flying Officer Arthur Tinkler VK3ZV and Lieutenant Gordon Weynton VK3XU. May I express the hope that all these and any other IAMS who

may be similarly placed at present will be returned to their homes, free once more to send their calls far and wide.

In extending to all new members a warm welcome and an invitation to take an active part in all Institute activities, I would like to express gratification at the rising membership figures and the view that it is an indication of a wider realisation that the Wireless Institute of Australia is destined to play an important part in the restoration of licences and other post war activities. So far the membership drive has touched only old members who have for reasons best known to themselves, omitted to renew their subscriptions at some time or another during the past five or six years. In making a determined effort to rectify these omissions, the membership secretaries have posted circulars and current issues of the magazine to about 140 old members. I have already told you of the immediate result and I think it's not too much to hope that a response will come from many others in the near future. The next on the list for attention of the Membership Secretaries is the non-members, so that I think we can look for an even more remarkable increase in membership during the coming year. Any member new or old who has not yet received a membership certificate should enquire about it immediately.

MAGAZINE.... Consequent upon the increased membership, circulation of Amateur Radio has continued to improve, being now past the 400 mark, but, due to the loss of our advertising support during the year, publication resulted in a loss of £11.7.5d. The members of the Magazine Committee continue to devote two Saturday afternoons per month to the work of producing the magazine, and the Division is indebted to them for the way in which they carry out their task.

No mention of the magazine, however, would be complete without a word of praise for those good people who have contributed articles for publication. Although it has been necessary to use articles abstracted from overseas publications, whatever their origin, they have always maintained a high technical standard and made interesting reading.

An innovation during the year was the book review page by Mr. A. H. Clyne VK3VX, which I feel sure has been of inestimable value to Hams who are unable to see for themselves just what books are available.

The arrangement with the New South Wales Division, which provides for a 14 Page magazine incorporating their Divisional Bulletin, has worked very well, and the present degree of co-operation between the two Divisions can be expected to continue to their mutual benefit. The present size of the magazine is governed partly by paper rationing and partly by the facilities available at present for printing, but the Magazine Committee hopes that the

return to a printed magazine is not far distant, plans for a change over as soon as circumstances permit having already been considered.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS....On the flimsy pretext that installation of power points and aeriels would be too costly, our offer to provide emergency communications for country police stations was refused. As it was plain that our services were just not wanted, we did not press further in this direction, but, when early this year bush fires ravaged parts of the State, our services and equipment were offered to the Forests Commission. This offer was not availed of and, when shortly after the disastrous grass fire occurred. Hams in the Western District were so able to impress members of the Bush Fire Brigades Association with the possibilities of Radio Communication, that we were requested to submit a scheme and an estimate of costs to a meeting held in Melbourne. Much time has been put into this work by Messrs. T. D. Hogan and J. K. Ridgway, and the scheme submitted provides for a network of fixed, mobile and portable stations that would enable rapid communication to be maintained between fire fighters and control officers in all parts of the State where fire fighting is in the care of the Bush Fire Brigades Association.

In estimating the cost of the parts needed to make the 104 stations required at £3000, no allowance was made for any payments for the services of any one who may be helping to construct and/or operate the gear. Apart from the initial work of constructing the gear, our main part in the scheme will be to see that it is kept in good working order and to provide operators for each zone control station, in fact the Division are to act as Technical and Communication Officers. Full details are beyond the scope of this review, but I can say that is has received the support of a large gathering representing both city and country Hams. Messrs. Hogan and Ridgway personally submitted the scheme to a Bush Fire Brigade's Association Executive Meeting, and later a demonstration of how the scheme would handle traffic was given at Hamilton by a group of Western Zone Hams. Both meetings appeared to be favorably impressed and we were confident that it would be accepted without delay. We were, therefore, rather surprised that no finality has yet been reached in spite of continuous contact with the Association, and we now assume that they are awaiting the passage of legislature in the present session of State Parliament, whereby a State Fire Authority is to be established.

LABORATORY.... A Committee, members of which are Messrs. I. Morgan VK3DH; A.H. Clyne VK3VX; C.C. Quin VK3WQ; J.K. Ridgway and myself has been meeting at least twice each month for the purpose of investigating the laboratory equipment with a view to setting up the apparatus, so that full use could be made of it. After prolonged and careful investigation, however, the Committee has reported to Council that, whilst the B. F.O. Wheatstone Bridge, and Capacity Bridge; Precision Condenser; and 1000 cycle Oscillator are in excellent condition and their calibration accurate, they possess certain

inherent qualities which render them of very limited servability to the demands of a modern laboratory, and the Committee has recommended the sale of these items, except for the BFO which it is thought will be difficult to sell due to its unsuitability for modern requirements. The proceeds from the sales to be paid into a fund to provide for the purchase of suitable equipment at a later date.

The Committee has further suggested that the ultimate necessities of the Laboratory should include:- 1. B.F.O. or other suitable instrument with a range of from 20 to 15,000 cycles per second. 2. Precision Signal Generator. 3. Inductance, Capacity and Resistance Bridge. 4. Vacuum Tube Voltmeter. 5. Cathode Ray Oscilloscope. 6. Retrodync Frequency Meter. 7. Means of testing tubes, transmitting and receiving. 8. Such measuring equipment as may be deemed necessary by post war developments in Amateur radio as yet unforeseen.

A laboratory so equipped would provide facilities for making comprehensive tests of members gear and equipment and would be a big help in ensuring that the more exacting requirements of post war amateur radio would be met. However, it is a goal which will not be easily reached as the equipment is expensive and it may be some time after the war before any of it becomes available.

Some of the Admiralty Handbooks used by the AOCF classes have been sold and we are anxious to dispose of more as receipts from the sale of these books provides a fund to be used for the purchase of modern books for the Technical Library.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all members of Council for their co-operation during the year. All I need say is that it has been a great pleasure to have had them working with me.

H. N. Stevens. VK3JO.
President.

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CORRESPONDENCE

L.H.S. By Wireless Group,
Albert Park.

To President and Councillors,
Victorian Division W.I.A.

Dear Sirs,

Re clause 3, page 11 of June Amateur Radio.

We the undersigned emphatically oppose the idea. Our main reasons being:- Although proficient operators, Army men are not required to possess much technical knowledge.

Most CO's are administrators and may not fully understand the standard expected for the AOCF. If a man possess knowledge equal or superior to AOCF standard, he could pass the exam without inconvenience.

K.V. Scott VK3CS.
J.L. Duncan VK3VZ

A.R. Williams VK3WE.
Ralph L. Day VK3RD.
R. McGregor VK3XZ.

SLOUCH H-TS and PORAGE CAPS

Believe it or not, a laddie rang me up the other night and said how he appreciated reading all your doings in this column of ours. He had been fifteen months or so out in the North West and our Mag. and our Column was his only means of keeping in touch with where all the VK hams were and what was happening at Divisional Headquarters. So its as I said...if YOU like to know where some other Ham is and what he is doing, there MUST be another Ham or two who have been wondering what the H... became of old VK!!! ... haven't heard of him for years....SO, send in THOSE NOTES.

Petty Officer Sid Clark sent me some notes from Milne Bay, but before they could be published he arrived down in person...for a brief rest, so he said. However, by the time you read this he will once more be where they don't need Kosi stoves in Winter time....Oh no, not that place YET....I mean Milne Bay. HI!

Graham Colley VK3QZ after attaining the rank of P/O was sent up North and nothing had been heard from him until recently when news of his exploits have come to hand. We suspect that his job was strictly hush-hush and full details are not available. From what we can gather he went into New Britain with the first invasion troops and was there for quite a while. We believe he established and operated an advance????? station under heavy Nip strafing. He was cut off from all services and comforts for a long while. That he was successful goes without saying for there is evidence of a fine letter from a high ranking American Officer written to Graham's wife congratulating her on the fine work her husband was doing and also on her fine cooking...it seems he shared one of her cakes. After that Graham was in the Admiralties for a time and at the end of May he was back in the New Guinea mainland ahead of our front line in Nip territory where, he says, "we had to watch our steps pretty carefully."

VK4TK Lue Robert P. Stack reports being back in Aussie after eighteen months in New Guinea. Would prefer to see the spots he has been in from the deck of the Bulolo, though. He met quite a few hams during that time but the calls have mostly slipped his memory. He asks if any of the chaps has news of Boulah B. Tolonen, one time of Phoenix Arizona, call sign W6GPV and also K7GLL, when she was in Alaska. Last time 4TK heard of her she was in La Paz Bolivia. As she worked many of the VKs possibly somebody may have heard of her. Regards to 4HA, 2XL, 6GC and his daughter, 4HM (Nick of Port Moresby) and 9VG of Bulolo from 4 TK Banda St., East Innosfail.

Don B. Knock VK2NC Inspector Engineer and Signal Stores (Vic) is now a Major...fb Don cm...now for the "florid complexion and a liver that needs dry cleaning" which is the official requirements, I believe Don says he believes they have heard some FB long distance DX way down on the VHF, but that wouldn't surprise any Ham as he says would know about the "Sporadic E Layer DX". 2NO also reports that 2ZH of whom nothing has been heard of since the War now holds a Commission in the R.A.A.F....thanks Don, its first news of him...like "first QSCs. HI!

VK2QL Frank Hine whom very many of you will remember rang up the other night. Frank is now a Fl/Lt and after his service around New Guinea is for the time stationed at Wagga. Alec Slight VK2ZA is back after his trip to G and in the North West. 2ZA, 2QL and P/o Bill Lewis 2YB (last heard of at Sale) were in permanent R.A.A.F. at Richmond before the War.

Fl/Lt R. J. Reynolds VK2AFR sends us a note on the back of his Sub Form...quite a good idea more chaps could follow...says he has just returned from a tour of Service units Northern and New Guinea...naturally he met Hams...so many he says he couldn't sort them out without getting down to the job in earnest. HI!

Sargeant Alan Jocelyn 2AJ0 is now located at Bonegilla..."repairing the ravages of women" (so my correspondent says)...and wishes to be remembered to all the Zero-beaters.

Wilf Harris...Petty Officer H.M.A.S. Australia...VK2ALF...puts over the best yet...says he will pay his Sub when the ship reaches port...Wilf, I hand it to you for originality...2YC. Wilf was over in the Med when the Greece Crete affair was on and finds the Jap air raids not too bad after the chasing of divebombers etc. H.M.A.S Perth gave over there.

Some time ago, Sgt. Keith Scott VK3SS got himself tangled up in 3000 volts & except for a burn or two he survived. The gang at LHQ heavy Wireless now view Keith very suspiciously for the reason that he recently returned from a visit to the city badly cut about...and ...his excuse was..."he fell over"???

Lt. Joe Ackerman VK2ALG has just finished his "spox of leave" and once more heads north to play round with the "ducks and alligators etc. etc." with which he now consorts. He says 3PA who did a course with him is now at Darwin, and John Cille 20Z is once more on the move also. "ALG mention that ZLIAQ in a W/O in the Air Force. He was in the Army first but has now joined the Air Force as an instructor. The Loot also mentioned 2RF as being in the Instructional Corp...I remember Bill as the VK2 WIA Div. Sec. longer years ago than I care to remember. HI!

Sig. J.F. Spain, well known in prewar days as 2nd op at 3HX writes that recently he received a copy of "AR" the first he has seen for a long time...so you see we get places OUR MAG...2YC...The old

FEDERAL HEADQUARTERS

Well the Essay Competition has concluded and all entries read and reviewed by the judges, who were Messrs. F. P. Dickson VK2APB, R. Priddle VK2AR and W. Ryan VK2TI, in an endeavor to ascertain what form Post War Amateur Radio would take. In deciding to hold this competition the Federal Executive were more concerned in obtaining the views of Australian amateurs rather than a literary effort worthy of the Pulitzer Prize. It was very interesting to note that quite a few competitors, I really think the correct term should be entrants, based their headings on those suggested as suitable topics by Federal Executive when the event was first mooted.

Quite frankly the number of entries received was rather disappointing, particularly as Federal Headquarters had in mind the possibility of framing a Post War Policy from the views expressed in the various essays, but, nevertheless, what was lacking in quantity was made up in quality. Many chaps did not feel like writing a thesis on the subject but had one or two ideas they felt like expressing and it is to their credit that they did not hesitate to do it.

As you are aware the original conditions laid down that three prizes would be awarded and the judges in making the awards decided that one should be set aside for a Service entrant whilst the other two would go to non-Service entries.

Well, here is the result. The non-Service prizes were won by:-

E. Hodgkins VK2EH

J. Ballinger VK3YK

and the Service Prize by:-

Petty Officer Telegraphist, S. Clark.

Reviewing the Essays it would appear that every entrant is in favor of an Australian Wireless Institute with a permanent staff rather than an Institute as at present constituted with Divisions in each State more or less dependant upon the voluntary efforts of the "always faithful few." An Australian Institute is one strongly favored by the Judges and the other members of Federal Headquarters. They also feel that the magazine should not be the responsibility of any one State. Quite frankly, when the entries had been whittled down, another an entry by J. Marsland 3NY received quite a deal of consideration, and the Judges were of the opinion that quite a deal of thought had been given by 3NY to the subject but felt that in the latter part his essay his viewpoint had considerably narrowed, and he was discussing the matter purely from a State angle rather than an Australian outlook.

The question of power did not receive a great variety of desire. Most entrants being satisfied with 100 watts with one notable exception who asked 500 watts for DX and 175 watts for local Qs's!

It is not proposed to debate the pros and cons of the winning Essays at this stage as they will be published each month, but eventually the good points of all essays will be collected and published.

POST-WAR AMATEUR RADIO

.. Ernest P. Hodgkins ... VK2EH ..

Post War Amateur Radio. - What a wealth of meaning those few words have for the amateur operator and experimenter! - What visions they conjure up! - What a pleasant thrill the contemplation of '50's again gives! - How good it is going to be to once more operate the rig, and that brand new receiver - with its row of tubes and latest idea in dials; to collect those much sought after 'SL's; to meet old friends of the air again; to share in the good fellowship that exists between Hams the world over.

But Post War Amateur Radio is not yet an established fact. Quite a lot of water must flow under the proverbial "Bridge" before the desire to participate once again may be gratified. We have not yet received the "all clear" from the Powers That Be.

What attitude will they adopt towards us when we do approach them? What convincing information must we as amateurs present in support of our case, and who will present it for us? How many Hams will their voice represent? What other opposition is there likely to be? What steps are we as amateurs going to take to meet these circumstances?

Our case may need to be a strong one. We may have to present very convincing proof of our good use of the frequencies allotted to us in the past. There will surely be those who covet them. There always has been. Right from the "Bad Old Days," the Ham has been squeezed first from one band to another, and then again to one still lower down - so we may expect an attempt at further squeezing. There is a limit to the amount of squeezing that is possible too.

How many of us are going to have a say against this? The more the merrier. Not as individual Hams--Oh dear no--but as one properly constituted and organised body. A body whose voice has been heard before. One that is able to speak convincingly on our behalf. A voice representing every Ham in the Commonwealth. Yes, Brother Hams, let us have a Voice and let that voice speak in unison and as strongly and forcibly as possible.

To achieve the necessary unity and strength it is important that every Ham and every aspirant for the mysteries and privileges of Post-War Amateur Radio Operation, should be a member of the Wireless Institute of Australia. Now, as at present constituted the Wireless Institute of Australia does not completely and adequately fill the needs of a large body of Hams. This is because the meetings take place in the capital cities. Most fellows belonging to our organisation like to feel that they are sharing in what is going on. Outlying districts are not sufficiently catered for. To overcome this deficiency I suggest that wherever possible Branch Clubs of the Wireless Institute of Australia, working under a Charter and

Constitution drawn up by Federal Council be formed. These Branches would take the place of the pre-war Radio Clubs and would function to fill the needs of Organised Amateur Radio just as the Branches of other Organisations and Societies function to fill the needs of all the members of the particular institution. There are no insurmountable difficulties. The Wireless Institute of Australia would then be the only body representing Amateurs in the country, thus indicating unity of purpose and control; giving us one powerful voice. The Branches would be in contact with Headquarters in each State by direct representative or by mail; Headquarters in each Division would be in touch with Federal Headquarters as now and through the Federal Body with the Authority Controlling Wireless Telegraphy. Thus we would have a strong voice emanating from a powerful Amateur Body.

When this is brought about it will be imperative that the Federal Body have at least a full time Secretary. It is necessary even now. The volume of work to be done and its importance warrant it.

In view of the number of licences issued in New South Wales and the amount of work entailed in running the business of the Institute, it would be desirable to have a paid secretary of this Division also. The more one comes in contact with the business handled by the Honorary Secretary of the New South Wales Division the greater appreciation one has for the efforts put into the job on Amateur Radio's behalf. With the present membership it is a menial job - and with the return of Amateur Radio and the increased membership that will result, it will cease to be a voluntary part-time job, but will demand the attention of someone permanently, who should receive an honorarium as compensation for the time and effort put into the work.

Who knows, we may even reach the stage when the President and Councillors may also receive a small honorarium. This may inspire others to submit for ballot, so making it necessary for Councillors to be more enthusiastic, (if that is possible) than they are now, and so earn what they receive either appreciation or criticism. It would also give some members justifiable grounds for complaint if councillors were not doing the fine job that was expected of them. HL?

With regard to the conditions under which we desire to operate our Post War Amateur Radio, and the case for our return to the "air" again, it is most desirable that we make it as easy for the "Authorities" to say "YES" as it is possible. We must remember that Amateur Radio does not only concern W.I.A. Members, or Australian Amateurs only, but that is the concern of many overseas Governments as well. It would be a wise move to approach "Officialdom" with NO new suggestions (YET). Let us ask for the "all clear" under conditions that ascertained before we received the red telegram saying "stop." We found those conditions very fair. Our frequency bands were good,

80 metres for Emergency Portable and search and rescue work...40 metres for some DX and regular consistent working...20 and 10 metres for DX and 5 metres for experimenting with HF gear and antennae. The higher frequencies will most certainly be ear-marked for further development of some of the hush-hush work already done...for television...location...light house work and so on.

The 50 watt limit was quite good workable one Technicians tell us that the power must be increased ten times to make one "R" point change in reception at distance. Half a kilowatt would cause QRM and isn't democratic anyway. Let us ask for 50 watts again and be content.

Just give Amateurs an opportunity of putting into practice some of the ideas they have had in mind during the past four years and there will be some very fine postwar amateur station installations. Most of us, though, will be obliged, for a while anyway, to revamp the gear that was "frozen" in 1939. It won't be long before some of the lads will warm some of it up too. I recall the plates of some finals I have seen with a "ruddy Blush!" We may expect developments such as variable frequency control, better and more test equipment such as signal tracers, more efficient antenna installations and vastly improved receiver response. This latter is a better move than increasing the input to the final to half a kilowatt.

Some of the lads at present in the various services will come forward with some bright ideas from some of the hush-hush gear, many new ideas will find their way into amateur installations (to say nothing of some of the gear itself).

These same lads have acquired a definite knowledge and skill in the handling of gear of great value to their country. It would be a definite loss if it were allowed to lapse and become defunct. The "United Nations" cause has suffered in the past because of our unpreparedness and lack of equipment. From this point of view, the services which trained these lads should provide opportunity for regular and useful practice in the branches in which they have given training, thus building up a permanent reserve trained and equipped, so that we may be able to meet an emergency should it occur. We surely hope that it will not.

Once the present conflict is over, and we have Amateur Radio once more, let us hope that never again will we have the Radio "Black Out" which all amateurs find so irksome. Post War Amateur Radio will be the grand hobby that Amateur Radio used to be. We will make new radio friends and meet all the old ones, and pass on to all the friendly, fraternal greetings as of old. Each QSO will finish with QRU Hr nw OM.

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Mag brought back many memories to Jack who is at present "enjoying" Army life in N.G. after seeing very much of VK. About 12 months ago he got into Sigs and was lucky enough to go to an Army School of sigs in Sydney, and during a leave he decided to get married. Now he is in charge of a battery charging station as well as looking "after" signal stores. (Bet you he has a good Rx after the War, lads ...ZYC).

Morrie Lusby ZWM has returned to VK after 2½ years absence in U.S.A. and England. Morrie gave about three quarters of an hour's talk at the W.I.A. meeting in which he showed what he has assimilated from the Diplomatic Corp. He MAY have just been on a tour sightseeing. Hi! Reckons he has done about 50,000 miles by air crossing the both oceans the Pacific taking 35 hours, and that isn't too bad for a civilian, in wartime. What a priority he must have had. Hi. Incidentally he left England when the BIG BAN was on, which bears out the last remark, what.

And so ends S & H. for this month. Send all notes to your Divisional Secretary or to ZYC, 78 Malenoy St., Eastlake, Mascot, Phone MU1092.

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VICTORIAN DIVISION.

The Annual General Meeting of the Division last Tuesday night, August 1st, saw an invasion of Service Hums mostly from inter-state. As space in this issue is rather limited, a full report will be included in the next issue.

The election of Officers for the ensuing year resulted in a double ballot for the Presidency. Messrs. H. N. Stevens VK3JO, I. Morgan VK3DH and J. G. Marsland VK3NY were nominated. In the voting Mr. Stevens and Mr. Marsland tied, and in the final vote Mr. Stevens was re-elected.

Vice-Presidents appointed were Messrs. T. D. Hogan VK3HX, M. Howden VK3BQ and H. Kinnear VK3KY.

Council elected for the next twelve months were:- Messrs. I. Morgan VK3DH; C. C. Quin VK3WQ; A. H. Glyne VK3VX; R. Marriott VK3SI; H. N. Stevens VK3JO; T. D. Hogan VK3HX; J. K. Ridgway and H. Burdekin.

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